be expressed by a variety of cell types, including heart, testis, thymus and skeletal muscle tissues. This cDNA encodes a protein of 217 amino acids that is referred to herein as dual specificity phosphatase-4, or DSP-4. DSP-4 shows significant homology to other MAP-kinase phosphatases, as shown by the sequence comparison presented in Figure 3.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 21 of page 44, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A cDNA (Figure 1; SEQ ID NO:1) encoding a protein of 217 amino acids (Figure 2; SEQ ID NO:2) was identified as DSP-4. This sequence has significant homology to other MAP-kinase phosphatases (Figure 3). The identified cDNA contains the 651 base pair coding region, as well as associated 5' and 3' untranslated sequences. The active site domain for DSP-4 was localized to the region that begins at position 148 of SEQ ID NO:2.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 3-5 without prejudice to the filing of any divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.

Please amend claims 2, 6, 8, 10-12, 14, and 22 to read as follows:

2. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising the sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

6. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide variant of the polypeptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the variant differs in one or more amino acid deletions, additions, insertions or substitutions at no more than 25% of the residues in SEQ ID NO:2, such that the polypeptide variant retains the ability to dephosphorylate an activated MAP-kinase.